

CITY FARM PROJECT STRONGLY SUPPORTED

Advocates Are Greatly Disappointed
at Failure of Council Committee
to Take Action.

REFERRED TO SUBCOMMITTEE

Jail System, Which Condemns to
Idleness Those Whose Crime Is
Due to Illness, and Which Pays
\$10,000 to Jailor, Is Condemned.

After listening to argument lasting more than three hours and delivered from every angle favoring the project, the Committee on Public Buildings, Properties and Utilities last night determined to refer the matter to a subcommittee. The committee, appointed by Chairman John J. McCraw, consists of Aldermen L. T. Christian, and Councilmen Jesse A. Ladd and Jefferson C. Powers. It is expected that the subcommittee will report as early as possible its findings and its recommendations.

Encouraged by a formidable array of supporters drawn from numerous civic and social organizations, the directors attempted vainly to force the flood of his tide to immediate fortune. Councilman Clyde H. Ratcliffe followed Alderman Christian's motion for reference to a subcommittee, and the latter motion was defeated by a recorded vote of 7 to 2. An "Aye" vote was given by Aldermen J. C. Powers, Christian, Ratcliffe, Ladd, Nelson and Chairman Mitchell. The vote was in no wise antagonistic to the directors' proposition, all the members declaring that they favored it, but an indication that the committee desired to go further into details, particularly as to the present disposal of the Pine Camp property, before taking decisive action.

LARGE CROWD URGES

IMMEDIATE ACTION

The meeting, on account of the large crowd in attendance, was held in the Council chamber. The committee was practically unanimously supported by the crowd, who at times displayed a marked tendency to take the situation into their own hands and force a definite issue. At one time a man, who was not a member of the committee, attempted to speak to the committee for reference. Mr. Christian intervened and made him sit down. His motion was carried by the same vote by which Mr. Ratcliffe's substitute was defeated.

At the conclusion of the meeting, at Mr. Hirschberg's request, and with the committee on Public Buildings, Properties and Utilities so as to save the necessity of a repetition of the hearing.

Councilman Hirschberg outlined in a general way the scheme, to which publication has already been given, showing how the various "bans" would be separately carried out on the city farm and how the same would be effected through the initial stages, the farm could be made self-sustaining, and could be called upon as a support for the Virginia Hospital and the City Home. He gave particular attention to the benefit which would accrue to its population of hospital convalescents, juvenile offenders, habitual drunkards, and other classes of persons who are now a burden on the city. He said that Virginia Hospital is overcrowded with its 165 patients, and that the building is old, dilapidated and a fire-trap.

CITY FARM WOULD

CHANGE JAIL SYSTEM

The City Home is in much better shape, and the system in force there has the added disadvantage of separating old and indigent couples who must seek refuge behind its walls. The city farm would to a large extent do away with the jail system, and save the city better use of men and women whose charges for salvation so often exceed when they cross a prison's threshold. He stated that no new positions would be created by the purchase of a city farm, and that the present staff of the committee would not be required.

In discussing the question of the advisability of selling the Pine Camp property, he said that the portion fronting toward Brook Road could be sold for \$100,000 and the balance for \$200,000, and that the remainder could be subdivided and sold at advantageous prices when and as the city saw fit.

After outlining his plan, Mr. Hirschberg turned the floor over to Mr. Christian, who replied that the proposition had been aired before the committee a year ago. Alderman Powers excepted to this statement, saying that it was the first time that the plan had come in such a form before the committee.

"I am not making a grandstand play," exclaimed Mr. Hirschberg. "I am here in the interests of humanity. If the committee wishes to hear from me, I am ready to proceed." Mr. Christian replied that the committee had decided the plan under which the city gained partial control of Virginia Hospital, saying that actual control was in the Medical College of Virginia, while the bills were paid by the city. Virginia Hospital, he said, "you had better be careful."

JUDGE R. CARTER SCOTT

PLEADS FOR PRISONERS

James E. Tyler, Jr., ardent advocate for jail reform, urged acceptance of the city farm plan, and other supporters were introduced in order. C. H. Weber, of the Men's Association of St. Paul's Church, pleaded for favorable action, and Judge R. Carter Scott, in a hearty endorsement of the plan, said that when fresh air and exercise are taken from prisoners, nothing is left them but curses for God and their fellow-men. He said that 50,000 prisoners had come through Occoquan, the farm operated by the District of Columbia, and that 2,000 of them had been made good. Mr. B. Valentine said that society must bring life where it now brings death; that it must uplift where it now casts down, and that a way to that end had been found in the city farm.

Rather Charles H. Hamilton urged acceptance of the plan from humanitarian and economic points of view, describing how well the scheme had been worked to a successful conclusion by other cities and states.

Justice of the Peace of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, pleaded for the farm for the sake of juvenile offenders and for the children who are made to suffer through their parents' fault. He said that nine-fifths percent of wife-beaters and non-supporters were made so by drink, and that the city farm would aid their rehabilitation.

Ben Wilson believed in concentration of municipal reform and penal methods

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